14. Special Consideration

College of Liberal Arts
Minor in Asian Studies
October 12, 2006

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Pamela R. Matthews
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs
College of Liberal Arts

THROUGH: Claude Gibson, Chair
Undergraduate Instruction Committee

TO: University Curriculum Committee

Subject: Minor in Asian Studies

The College of Liberal Arts has approved the proposal to create a minor in Asian Studies with all supporting documentation included.
Course Requirements for the Minor in Asian Studies
Students must successfully complete 15 credit hours including at least 6 hours at the upper-division (300 and 400) level, plus a capstone course, as follows:

3 hours, Capstone course (see below)
6 hours Asian Studies humanities courses (from list below or as approved by the Director of Asian Studies)
6 hours Asian Studies social sciences courses (from list below or as approved by the Director of Asian Studies)
3 hours Asian Studies electives (from list below or as approved by the Director of Asian Studies)

Capstone Course in Asian Studies
This course will be taken after the student has completed 12 hours of Asian Studies courses toward the minor. It will be an upper division Asian Studies course (from the list below or as approved by the Director of Asian Studies). It will involve a contract between the student and the Instructor (that is approved before the start of the course by the Instructor and the Director of Asian Studies) in which the student, in addition to the requirements of the course, will complete a seminar paper or some other substantive work.

Asian Studies courses may be chosen from the following:

Note: several of the courses listed below (in Communication, History, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Geography) are "489" courses. Most of these are new courses that are now being developed under a Department of Education grant awarded in 2005 to the College of Liberal Arts. After these new courses are completed and then offered for the first time, they will receive unique course numbers.

Humanities
ENGL 396, Asian American Women Writers (this topic only)
HIST 349, The Vietnam War/The American War
HIST 350, Asia During World War II
HIST 351, Traditional East Asia
HIST 352, Modern East Asia
HIST 354, Imperial China
HIST 355, Modern China
HIST 356, Twentieth Century Japan
HIST 481, Chinese Popular Culture since 1600
HIST 489, Communism in Asia
HIST 489, Revolutions and Reforms in Twentieth-Century China
RELS 304, Indian and Oriental Religions: Religions of South and East Asia
RELS 489, Chinese Religions and Philosophy
**Social Sciences**

COMM 335, Intercultural Communication  
COMM 458, Global Media  
COMM 460, Communication and Contemporary Issues: Asian Popular Culture  
COMM 489, Political Communication in South Asia  
COMM 489, Special Topics in China, Communication & World Affairs  
GEOG 326, Geography of East Asia  
GEOG 489, Geography of China  
POLS 365, Asian Governments and Politics  
SOCI 329, Pacific Rim Business Behavior  
SOCI 463, Gender in Asia  
SOCI 489, Gender in Contemporary East Asia  
SOCI 489, Population and Society of Modern China  
SOCI 489, Sociology of Asian Americans  
SOCI 489, Race and Ethnicity in East Asia

**Asian Language Courses**

The student may count toward the completion of the Asian Studies minor up to 6 hours of upper division Asian language courses (300 level or higher). If the student includes 6 hours of language courses toward the minor, the student's required hours in Asian Studies humanities and social sciences courses will be reduced from 12 hours to nine hours (see above), giving the student 6 hours of Asian Studies electives; the 6 hours of language will be included as Asian Studies elective hours.

**Asian Studies Courses, Resident Hours**

The student must complete a minimum of six hours of Asian Studies courses toward the minor at the 300 or 400 level in residence at Texas A&M University.
Letters of Support from Department Heads for Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in Asian Studies

August 21, 2006

Bornstein, Daniel; Religious Studies
Buenger, Walter; History
Fossett, Mark; Sociology
Hurley, Patricia; Political Science
Parrish Paul; English
Sherman, Douglas; Geography
Street, Richard; Communication
Date: Tue, 8 Aug 2006 14:49:13 -0500

Subject: Re: Minor in Asian Studies

CC: "Shaun Longstreet" <slongstr@tamu.edu>, "Pamela R. Matthews" <p-matthews@tamu.edu>, "Ben Crouch" <b-crouch@tamu.edu>

To: "Dudley L. Poston, Jr." <dudleyposton@yahoo.com>

From: "Daniel Bornstein" <d-bornstein@tamu.edu>

Dear Dudley,

I am happy to support the new minor in Asian Studies. I see no problem with having RELS 304: Indian and Oriental Religions and RELS 489: Chinese Religions and Philosophy (which I trust will soon be added to the undergraduate catalog as a regular course offering) listed as meeting the requirements for the minor in Asian Studies, or indeed with cross-listing them with corresponding Asian Studies courses once those are created.

Daniel
August 14, 2006

Dudley L. Poston, Jr.
Department of Sociology
ACAD Bldg., 311
Campus

Dear Dudley:

I am pleased to learn about the proposed interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies and the various courses in the History Department that will be included as possible course offerings for the minor. I support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Buenger
Head of Department
August 16, 2006

Dr. Dudley L. Poston, Jr.
Department of Sociology
Texas A&M University
Academic Building # 326
Campus

Dear Dudley:

I am writing to tell you that I fully support your efforts at establishing in our College an interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies. You have listed several sociology courses to be taught by yourself, Kazuko Suzuki, and Lu Zheng and others. I am pleased to include these sociology courses, and others to be developed later, among the courses that could be taken by students declaring minors in Asian Studies.

Sincerely,

Mark Fossett
Professor of Sociology
Head of Department
Dudley,

I have asked our undergraduate program director and our senior academic advisor to review this. They have no objection to the inclusion of POLS 365 on the list.

They did make the following observations:

Our undergrad director sent this message

"As a practical matter: the treatment of Asian Language Courses is very confusing at best. That is, the course requirements add up to 18 hours in specific categories or types of courses, with just 3 of the 18 hours as Asian Studies electives. Yet, under "Asian Language Courses," it says that the student may count up to 6 hours of language courses toward completion of the minor. Then in a second statement about Asian Language Courses, Resident Hours, it says that 6 hours of language in residence are required toward the minor. Are these 6 hours in addition to the 18 hours mentioned
under course requirements? If so, they should just put the language requirement in the course requirements, and indicate clearly whether the 3 elective hours can include 3 of the 6 (or perhaps an additional 3) hours of language.

My guess is that this is cut and pasted from different drafts, and something was missed in the cutting. Or maybe I'm just missing something."

Our senior academic advisor thought the Asian language courses were not available (but you may know something he does not). He also made the same observation as Rick Street -- there are too many 489s on the course list and this could give you implementation problems.

Pat

Patricia A. Hurley
Professor and Head
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Date: Thu, 17 Aug 2006 09:18:49 -0500

To: "Dudley L. Poston, Jr." <dudleyposton@yahoo.com>

From: "Paul Parrish" <p-parrish@tamu.edu>  View Contact Details  Acid Mobile Alert

Subject: Re: Minor in Asian Studies

Dear Dudley,

I'm happy to confirm the support of the Department of English for the interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies. This is a very good move.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Paul Parrish
Hi Dudley,

Best wishes for success with your proposal for a minor in Asian Studies. The Department of Geography supports your efforts, and we have no problem with two of our courses being included in your program.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist with your proposal.

Cheers, Doug
Hi Dudley,

Having our courses is fine, but we need to make some corrections. First, you list us in the humanities when actually these courses are taught from a social science perspective. For example COMM 335 meets the social science core requirements as well as the international and cultures one. COMM 458 is social science as well.

Second, the COMM 489s are special topics courses. 489s normally have to be substituted in a degree plan, don't they? Also, while the COMM 460 is a course with variable topics, it may only focus on Asia issues only occasionally, so having COMM 460 alone probably would not work.

Now the 489s and the 460 would be great courses for the minor and we support you using them, but it might be better to list some more permanent courses although these, from time to time, may be taught as 489s until we
formalize them as standing courses. But if the college doesn't mind, fine by us. And we probably wouldn't formalize them as three different 400-level courses on Asia (perhaps one as variable topic) since we have only one faculty member who would teach them. So just FYI on that.

Thanks,

Rick